

Thank you, Mr. President.

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I am not going to repeat my monologue from Monday's Special Budget Committee Meeting.

Nor will I offer an amendment that I know now is doomed to fail.

I'm not going to cast a protest vote, either.

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I am disappointed by the lack of any serious discussion about the police operating budget in the context of a broader public safety system.

However, I acknowledge that redirecting police forfeiture funds to deflection and a public health response, police force diversity and un-training is meaningful – that money could have been spent on crowd control weapons instead. Standing up a civilian oversight system for LMPD with a real budget is meaningful, too.

It is not enough but it is a start. It is just a shame that we have a "continuation" budget at a moment in history when society is finally changing.

I hope the council will reflect on that next year and, in the meantime, stand united and act against inequity and racism in all our institutions.

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Thank you.